

From: Eric Weeks
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I wanted to take some time and proactively tell you that I am very disturbed at the proposed Microsoft settlement. Microsoft's actions have been devastating to many companies and in the industry and have significantly slowed innovation and progress. Their claims to the contrary are ludicrous upon a review of their effect on the industry.

I am particularly concerned about their Trojan horse of "aid" to schools by donation of hardware (compatible with Windows of course) and software (surely their proprietary software) which can be donated at a real cost which is a very, very small fraction of the retail cost. The beauty of this arrangement for Microsoft is that it also gives them a greater market share in the one area they don't have a monopoly--schools. Apple is reportedly running scared and they should be. It's a hidden coup for Microsoft.

Microsoft has broken the law and despite their benefit to the American economy, there have been corresponding, huge, losses in jobs, smaller, innovative companies, and value to customers. Look at the price of Microsoft Office. Look at how inferior software (Windows and countless other pedestrian Microsoft products) has become the de facto standard when reasonably priced, superior products (Macintosh OS, Oracle, Linux, Alternate DOS providers) barely survive or are quashed, squeezed out, or bought out by Microsoft. They are a monopoly that hurts the industry. These are only a few of the issues.

Please don't let Microsoft slip away. They need a reasonable punishment and organizational solution that will stop the abuses they have perpetrated and continue to perpetrate.

Thanks for your time.

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